## Message Text

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**ACTION EB-07** 

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

GSA-01 OIC-02 INT-05 /082 W

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R 302235Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1118

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EIND, EMIN, ETRD, PP

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CIPEC INITIATIVE ON PRODUCER/CONSUMER

DIALOGUE FOR COPPER

REF: A. STATE 287245, B. STATE 264613

1. EMBOFFS DISCUSSED CONTENTS REFTELS WITH DFRT OFFICIALS ELLIOTT ELIJAH, ACTING SECRETARY, AND ROBIN CHOW, DELEGATE TO RECENT LIMA MEETING, AND NIGEL AGONIA, DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF MINERALS AND ENERGY.
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- 2. IN FIRST MEETING HELD WITH AGONIA, WE EXPLAINED U.S.
  POSITION AND INQUIRED RE PNG ATTITUDE TOWARD DIALOGUE. AGONIA
  STATED THAT CIPEC DID NOT WISH TO EMULATE OPEC IN TERMS OF
  "CONFRONTATION," BUT PREFERRED AMICABLE DIALOGUE WHEREBY
  BOTH PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS WOULD BENEFIT. HE ADDED THAT PNG
  WOULD BE INTERESTED IN POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING BUFFER STOCK
  SYSTEM AND SUGGESTED THAT PRICE OF U.S. 60 TO 80 CENTS A POUND
  WEIGHTED TOWARD UPPER END OF SCALE MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE.
  AGONIA SAID HE BELIEVED OTHER CIPEC MEMBERS WISHED TO STABILIZE
  PRICES WHILE AVOIDING CYCLICAL SWINGS IF POSSIBLE. HE WAS
  OPTIMISTIC THAT PARIS CIEC DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE BENEFICIAL
  STEP.
- 3. ALTHOUGH ELIJAH WAS NOT FULLY ABREST OF EVENTS, CHOW KNOWLEDGEABLY PRESENTED GPNG POSITION. HE SAID PNG WOULD FAVOR DIALOGUE BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS, BUT REMINDED US THAT PNG WAS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER AND DID NOT HAVE A VOTE IN CIPEC. HE NOTED THAT INDONESIA WHICH PRODUCES ONE-THIRD AMOUNT OF COPPER PRODUCED HERE DID HAVE A VOTE. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTION REGARDING EQUITABLE PRICE FOR COPPER, HE MENTIONED U.S. 60 TO 70 CENT RANGE, BUT HEDGED BY SAYING CIPEC ECONOMISTS HAD DIFFERENT THEORIES AND IDEAS OF COPPER'S BOOM/BUST CYCLE AND JUST WHAT WAS A FAIR PRICE.
- 4. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT GPNG WOULD LIKE TO AVOID CONFRONTATION TACTICS. THIS IS BASICALLY UNNATURAL APPROACH FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEANS WHO PREFER TO SEEK CONSENSUS. PNG OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THEIRS WILL BE A DECISIVE VOICE IN UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS ALTHOUGH THEY APPEAR AWARE THAT RESTRUCTURING OF MARKET WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO PNG.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: COPPER, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, EXPORTERS, IMPORTERS

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Subject: POSSIBLE CIPEC INITIATIVE ON PRODUCER/CONSUMER DIALOGUE FOR COPPER

TAGS: EIND, EMIN, ETRD, PP, US, CIPEC To: STATE

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